

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Missionary Harmony Baptist Association

HELD WITH PLEASANT VALLEY CHURCH,

JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA,

OCTOBER 7, 8, and 9. 1899.

J. N. HAYES, Clerk,
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

J. D. FOLKS, Mod.,
Woodstock, Ala.

The next session will be held with the Cedar Grove Church, on
Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1900.

COMMITTEES TO REPORT AT NEXT SESSION.

Education—W. H. Hand, Chairman, Blocton.

Orphans' Home—W. B. Newman, Chairman, Powderly.

Sabbath Schools—Gordon Parsons, Chairman, Adger.

S. H. and F. Missions—J. T. Lawrence, Belle Sumter.

Temperance—James Sellars, Chairman, Johns.

MINUTES.

PLEASANT VALLEY CHURCH, OCTOBER 7, 1899.

The Delegates from the various churches composing the Twenty-third Annual Session of the Missionary Harmony Baptist Association convened with the Pleasant Valley church, this day at 11 o'clock. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder W. B. Newman, from Matthew 18th chapter, 19th and 20th verses: "Again I say unto you that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven; for where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." After a recess of one hour and a half, during which a most ample repast was served, the delegates assembled in the meeting-house and the association was called to order by our former Moderator, Elder J. D. Folks.

2. The roll of the churches was called and the delegates came forward bearing their petitionary letters and voted for Moderator, which resulted in the choice of Rev. J. D. Folks. By request, Brethren Jas. Sellers and W. H. Hand came forward and read the letters.

3. The Moderator proceeded with the business as follows, and appointed the following committees to serve during the present session, except the committees on Temperance, S.H. and F. Missions, Sabbath Schools, Education, and Orphans' Home, who report at next session.

Documents—John N. Hayes, A. B. Dickey, D. A. Howton.

Finance—W. A. Johnson, J. T. Lawrence, C. H. Bridges.

Nominations—A. G. Franklin, D. A. Howton, B. M. Vines.

Education—W. H. Hand, J. R. Gallant, Jesse Williams.

Orphans' Home—N. H. Herring, J. H. Stringfellow, S. Y. Herring.

Sabbath Schools—Gordon Parsons, L. W. Nelson, J. M. White.

S. H. and Foreign Missions—J. T. Lawrence, W. H. Hand, W. B. Newman.

4. Called for correspondence, and received from Birmingham Rev. W. N. Kirkland and Elder W. R. Ivey.

5. Opened the door for the reception of new and unassociated churches.

6. The Committee on Preaching reported Elder L. P. Craig to preach a missionary sermon Sunday at 11 o'clock.

By motion the association adjourned to 8:30 o'clock a. m. Monday

SABBATH, OCTOBER 8.

7. The appointments announced by the Committee on Preaching were attended to as follows: Elder L. P. Craig preached at 11 o'clock from Matthew 28th chapter, 19th and 20th verses—"Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the

Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you alway, even to the end of the world." After which a collection was taken up for missions, to the amount of \$7.31. Elder J. D. Folks preached at 3 o'clock, from Psalm 101. Elder W. F. Kirkland preached at candle-light from Matthew 6th chapter and 9th verse—"After this manner, therefore, pray ye, 'Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.'"

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9.

8. Pursuant to adjournment, the association met. After spending a few minutes in devotional exercises, led by Bro. B. M. Vines, the association was called to order by our Moderator.

9. The roll of delegates was called and absentees noted, as follows:

Blue Creek—Elder V. A. Wilson.

Cedar Grove—John N. Hayes.

Corinth—Not represented.

Enterprise—H. C. Kyser.

Hephzibah—A. B. Dickey, S. Y. Herring

Liberty—J. Y. Franklin, J. H. Stringfellow, N. H. Herring.

Mount Olive—J. N. Hayes.

Mount Carmel—J. W. Smith, John Seals, J. R. Gallant

New Hope—Not represented.

Pleasant Grove—D. A. Howton, J. L. Lawrence, James Sellars.

Parker's Grove—Not represented

Pleasant Valley—W. W. Johnson, S. Williams, John White, Rev. R. Hallman,
B. Curl.

Spring Hill—Letter; no delegates.

Roup's Valley—B. M. Vines; no letter.

Third Baptist Church at Blocton—W. H. Hand.

Valley Creek—Gordon Parsons.

10. By motion there was a committee of one member from each church in the association appointed to take up collections quarterly in their respective churches for the Orphans' Home and Elder N. H. Williams during the present year. The following were appointed:

Cedar Grove, John N. Hayes; Spring Hill, John Blake; Third Baptist Church at Blocton, W. H. Hand; Enterprise, H. C. Kyser; Hephzibah, A. B. Dickey; Liberty J. H. Stringfellow; Roup's Valley, B. M. Vines; Mount Carmel, J. A. Smith; New Hope, John Tatum; Pleasant Valley, D. M. Winstead; Valley Creek, H. Bridges; Pleasant Grove—D. A. Howton.

11. The Committee on Deceased and infirm Ministers reported:

We recommend in reference to Elder N. H. Williams, he is also poor and needy. We ask all the churches to contribute to him that he may procure the necessities of life while he may be permitted to live. It is well known that he has worn himself out in the ministry.

W. B. NEWMAN, Chairman.

12. The Committee on Sabbath Schools reported:

Dear Brethren, we cannot make a very favorable report, from the fact that, after examination we find that there is a large per cent of our churches that are not awakened to a sense of our duties and responsibilities. for the Lord tells us in his Word that we shall teach his Word to our children and to those around us. See Deut., 6th chapter from 6th to 9th verses: also, Matthew 28th chap., 19th and 20th verses. We do not see our churches alive to the Sabbath School work. Dear brethren, can we get up a better way to teach our children than in the Sabbath School? We think that a Sabbath School is the church at work. It exhibits a missionary spirit in the church. To have a Sabbath School going on we can teach each other the Word of God, and teach sinners the way to Christ. We believe that there is something for every child of God to do. We recommend that the Bible and Baptist literature be used in our Sabbath Schools. May the time speedily come when we will awaken to a sense of our responsibility. May the Lord impress us with our duties and save us.

S. W. HOSMER, Chairman.

13. The Committee on Documents reported :

We find from the letters that some of the churches report that they have had good meetings, others have not held their meetings yet. We recommend that the Baptist literature and the Bible be used in our Sabbath Schools. We find that Blue Creek church calls for a letter of dismission, and recommend that it be granted.

JOHN N. HAYES, Chairman.

14. By motion, Blue Creek was granted a letter of dismission.

15. The Committee on Missions reported :

As to the teachings of God's Word upon the subject of giving the whole world the Gospel, is too plain to need discussion. The commission of Christ and the practical carrying out of the same by the early disciples are sufficient arguments to convince every Christian Bible student. And as to plans, we recommend that every Christian should see that he does something, in some way, if not my way, in his own way, to carry the Gospel to earth's remotest bounds.

J. W. SANDLIN, Chairman.

Adjourned one hour for dinner.

16. Pursuant to adjournment the association met and was opened with prayer by Elder W. R. Ivey.

17. By motion the association appointed an Executive Committee consisting of Brethren D. A. Howton, S. W. Hosmer, E. D. Herring, C. M. McCary and R. M. Vines, to serve till our next meeting, whose duty it shall be to send or advise means of sending out an itinerant in the destitute places in our bounds.

18. The Committee on Temperance reported.

Your Committee on Temperance have little encouragement to offer on temperance, notwithstanding all the stringent laws and moral sentiment on the subject. The manufacture, sale, and use of intoxicating beverages seem to be on the increase, yet we have encouragement. Among our native born American citizens there seems to be a growing sentiment against intemperance of all kinds. We recommend that all Christians abstain from the use of intoxicating drinks. Touch not, handle not any unclean thing, whatsoever it may be.

JOHN N. HAYES, Chairman.

19. The Committee on Education reported:

We believe there is no work in the denomination that has a greater tendency to the unification of our forces than this. The schools for this important work in Alabama, the Howard College at East Lake, the famous Judson Institute, of Marion, and the grand old Central Female College at Tuscaloosa are especially fitted for the building up of a great Baptist cause all over the land. In the first place in each of these institutions, we have a corps of firm, strong and loyal Baptist teachers versed in all the branches, but when our cause of education joins its modest birth in the fact that these teachers are men and women whose hearts are full of christian graces, that the mind and heart is being trained also. In the second place the Bible, the God-given text-book of the christian faith and practice, is taught in our denominational schools, and to this fact their success and prosperity through the vicissitudes and storms they have been compelled to pass during the last few years is largely attributable. They are founded upon God and His promises, and He has not forsaken them in times of seeming peril and adversity. The great and powerful Baptist brotherhood to-day stands united on account of the training, brotherly love and christian ties which have received and begotten in our denominational institutions of learning. The sons and daughters of the Howard, the Judson, and the Central, together with those of all the other Baptist colleges and schools, stand as the Macedonian Phoenix, not to be cut down by the Spartan and Atheian powers of specialism skepticism. They are united under the great captain and king, our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. Brethren, this cause is worthy of and demands our deepest prayers and supplications as well as our most earnest and careful consideration as servants of God assembled to do His work. Let us prove our faith by our works in sending our boys and girls to our own denominational schools. It is a conceded fact that education to a minister of the Gospel in these days and times is one of the foundations of success. It is essential for a two-fold purpose. He should be in advance of his flock in order to lead them, for indeed a leader he should be. All denominations are educating their ministers, and if we Baptist expect to hold prestige we have gained over the other denominations in this State, we will have to keep up with the procession. We need men educated in more ways than one. We need balanced men; men who can hold their hand with any set or body of men, hence we conceive it to be the duty of Baptist churches and associations in educating young men for the ministry, to see that they take those that are made of the right kind of material, Howard College can cultivate and improve the mind and strengthen the morals, but it can neither give brains nor moral you ask. Are not the Baptists of this State giving sufficient to educate all the ministerial students? It is with sorrow we have to answer no. We are giving comparatively nothing; we find that during the last scholastic year of Howard College there was more than thirty ministerial students and not enough to pay for one-third of them. Now, Brethren, we ask how can we expect to send out to the world the blessed Gospel of our Lord and break down the citadel of sin if we have not the forces? The day of the wilfully ignorant is past, and it has become our duty to work for the advancement of education and for the upbuilding of God's cause, and we recommend that each church in the bounds of this Association take up collections quarterly for the education of the ministers.

W. H. HAND, Chairman.

20. The Committee on Nominations reported:

We recommend the next session of this Association be held with Cedar Grove Church on Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1900, five miles southwest of Vance's Station, Bibb County, Ala. The Introductory Sermon to be preached by Elder C. Miller; a missionary sermon to be preached on Sunday at 11 o'clock by Elder W. B. Newman. J. T. FRANKLIN, Chairman.

21. Took up a collection for Elder N. H. Williams to the amount of \$2.45.

22. The Committee on Finance reported:

For Minutes \$10.25; Association purposes \$5.00; Foreign Missions \$7.03; Home Missions \$2.23; State Missions \$3.00; Orphans' Home, (sent by Cedar Grove church direct) \$3.50; sent by Pleasant Grove church direct \$4.35; collection on Sunday for missions \$7.31; Elder N. H. Williams \$3.45.

W. W. JOHNSON, Chairman.

23. By motion, the Association turned over to Rev. J. N. Sandlin, District Secretary and Treasurer, \$18.57 for missions.

24. No report from the First District Meeting.

Report of the Second District Meeting held with the Pleasant Grove church from the 1st to the 2nd day of September, 1899. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder I. N. Walker, from 133 Psalm, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

Adjourned one hour for dinner. At one o'clock assembled in the meeting house, and was called to order by Bro. E. D. Herring. The roll was called and the delegates came forward bearing their petitionary letters and voted for Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the choice of Rev. I. N. Walker Moderator and Bro. N. H. Herring Clerk. By request Rev. W. B. Johnson and A. B. Dickey came forward and read the letters.

The Moderator appointed the following committees: Preaching—W. A. Lawson with the Deacons of this church. Nominations and Queries—Brethren E. D. Herring, D. A. Howton and James Lawson.

25. The Committee on Nominations and Queries reported:

That the Union Meeting of the Second District meet with Blue Creek church, commencing on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1900. The Introductory Sermon to be preached by Rev. V. A. Wilson. Query for Friday evening: Would it be advisable to elect Deacons annually? Opened by Elder J. D. Folks. Resolved, that we hereby tender our thanks to the brethren and sisters of Pleasant Grove church and the citizens of this neighborhood for the liberal

and hospitable manner in which they entertained this body during our stay with them. After singing and taking the parting hand, Second District meeting adjourned to meet with Blue Creek church on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1900. Resolved, that this Association return its hearty thanks to the members of Pleasant Valley church and citizens and vicinity for their hearty welcome to us and their kind entertainment during our stay with them. May the rich blessings of our God rest upon them, and may the labors of our meeting with them be blessed with an abundant harvest for Christ's sake.

After singing and taking the parting hand, the Association adjourned to meet with Cedar Grove church, commencing on Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in October, 1900. The Introductory Sermon to be preached by C. Miller; a missionary sermon to be preached Sunday at 11 o'clock by Elder W. B. Newman, seven miles south of Vance's Station, and four miles northwest of Scottsville, Bibb County, Ala.

J. N. HAYES,

Stated Clerk.

J. D. FOLKS,

Moderator.

CONSTITUTION.

1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who, on presenting their letters, shall be entitled to seats. The members thus chosen and convened shall be known by the name of THE MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, which shall have the right to enact and carry out Missionary purposes in all their bearings—yet, so as that the churches and individual members are left free; and that giving or withholding shall not be a bar to membership.

2. The Association shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union or infringe any of their internal rights; but shall merely be considered an advisory council in all matters relative to their internal concern; nevertheless, it becomes necessary, in some cases, to have a uniform rule of procedure, namely: If one church commit an offense against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction; if she fail of success, she shall call the aid of two or more churches of our union to assist in laboring for satisfaction; and if final satisfaction, in the opinion of the helps thus called, be not obtained, the aggrieved may bring the case before the Association, which shall be taken up and decided upon according to its merits. If a serious difference should arise in an individual church which, upon due labor, cannot be reconciled, she shall call the help of two or more sister churches, to assist in the work and if a reconciliation be not effected, in help so called, or the church, may bring the matter before the Association, to be acted on according to its merits, but the Association will take cognizance of no case of the kind unless a due course of procedure shall have been previously pursued according to the economy of the church discipline, found in the 18th chapter of the gospel of St. Mathew, and other parts of the Scriptures which define the nature of offense and the manner of bringing offenders to trial.

3. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association a written communication, giving the names of the delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated, and deceased, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

4. Every church in our union shall be entitled to representation in the following manner: Each church of fifty members or less 3 delegates, and one additional for each 25 members above 50, or fractional part thereof. Any church failing to represent herself as prescribed, shall state her reasons at the next session.

5. New churches may be admitted into our union by delegates bearing petitionary letters. If, upon due examination, they be found orderly and orthodox, the Moderator shall manifest their admission by giving the right hand in token of Christian fellowship.

6. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

7. At every session of the Association, a Moderator shall be appointed by and from the delegates present, whose duty it shall be to see that the rules are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A stated clerk shall be appointed, who shall continue in office until the Association shall elect his successor, and whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of the proceedings, and to keep a regular file of the printed minutes of every session of this body, which he is to present to the view of the Association annually.

8. The Association shall have power to exclude from the union any church that may violate the constitution or depart from the orthodox principles of the constitution.

9. The Association shall furnish the minutes of every session to the churches making contributions for that purpose.

10. Every query sent by a particular church must be included in her letter, certifying that she endeavored to reconcile, but failed. In such a case, the Association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of the majority shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall be entered on the minutes.

11. Queries which immediately concern the union of the churches, sent by a particular church, or introduced by a proper motion, shall be taken up and decided on as soon as practicable.

12. Any church in our union having a preacher whom she deems worthy of ordination, shall call a presbytery of ministers from sister churches to officiate in the work; and all presbyteries, in the ordaining of ministers and deacons, or in the constitution of churches, shall be governed by the Abstract of Faith adopted by the Association.

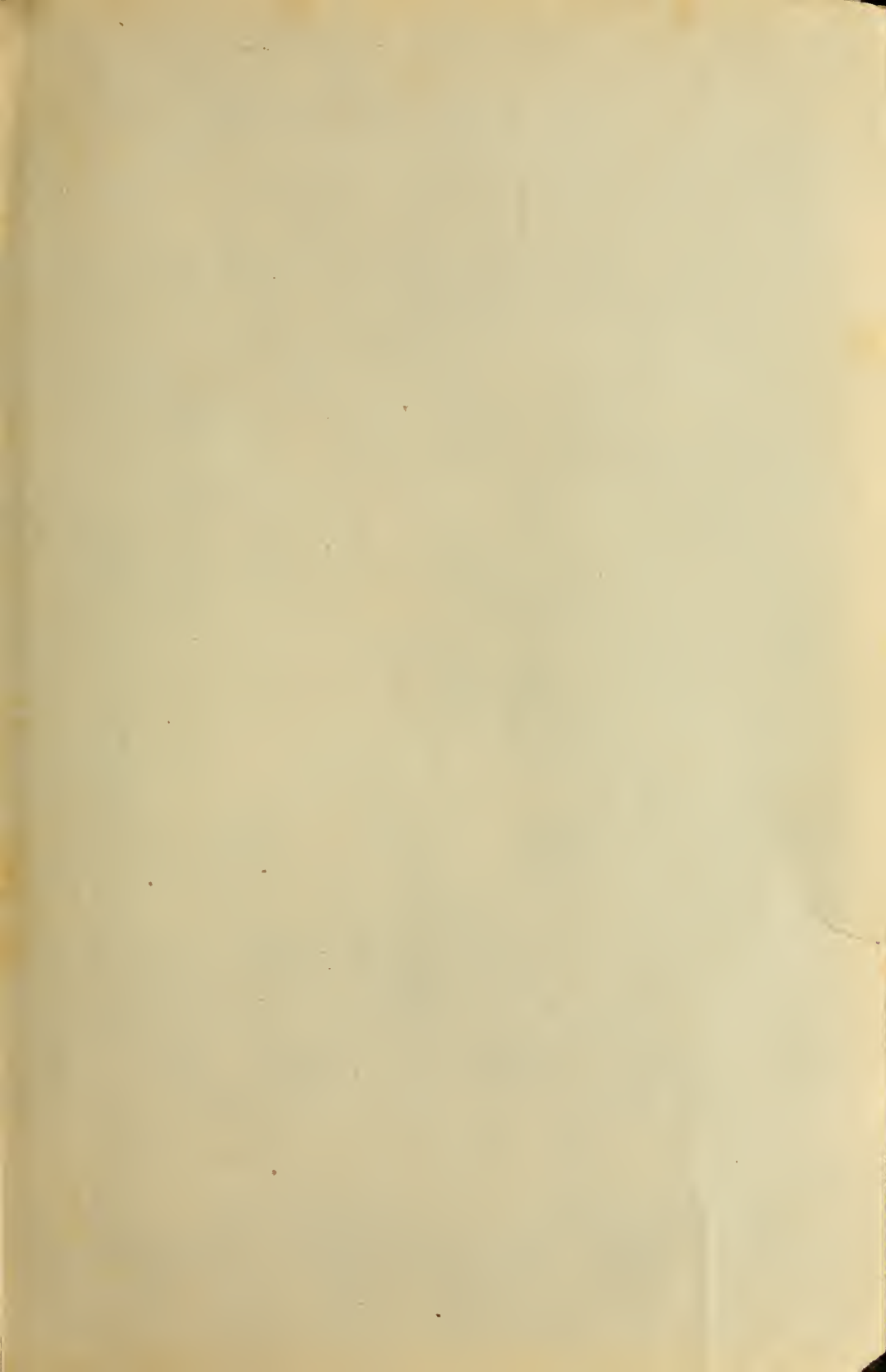
13. The Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, and all monies thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches by their delegates and paid over to the committee on finance. This committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association Fund, and dispose of the same agreeably to order, and make at every session a fair and circumstantial report of their proceedings.

14. The Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all business on hand except in extraordinary cases.

15. The minutes of the Association shall be read, and corrected if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the session rises.

16. The Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members except to change or amend the constitution.

17. Amendments to the constitution may be made at any session when two-thirds of the delegates present are in favor of such amendment.



STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCH.	PASTOR.	PASTOR'S P. O.	CLERK.	CLERK'S P. O.	Baptized.	Rec'd by letter.	Restored.	Dis. by letter.	Excluded.	Died.	Total	Sab. Meetings.	Date of Constitution.	Minute Fund.	Associational Fund.	Missions.	Orphans' Home.	
Blue Creek	V. A. Wilson	Belle Sumter	O. W. Sellars	Joins	5	2	3	3	3	59	4	1858	\$	1 50	\$	50	\$ 1 56	\$ 3 00
Cedar Grove	W. G. Hubbard	Scottsville	J. N. Hayes	Vance's				1	2	123	3	1	1885					3 50
Corinth										8	1							
Enterprise	R. Hallman	Reding	T. J. Gould.	Coaling	10 21					50	1883	75		50	50	5 00		
Hephzibah	J. N. Walker	Woodstock	A. B. Dickey	Woodstock	2 31	1	5	1		78	4	1847	1 00	50	50	3 00	1 00	
Liberty	J. D. Folks	Belle Sumter	E. A. F. Herring	Middle	8 2		2	1		56	3	1890	1 00		50			
Mount Olive										3	1848							
Mount Carmel	G. W. Freeman	Randolph	G. Dunn	Blocton	6 12	2	10	1	3	235	2	1869	2 50	1 00			10	
New Hope										75	3	1886						
Pleasant Grove	V. A. Wilson	Belle Sumter	J. Sellars	Belle Sumter	7 6	1	6	7	3	52	1	1884	1 00	50	2 03	4 35		
Parker Grove										11		1893						
Pleas. Valley	W. B. Newman	Powderly	G. M. Winstead	Redding	1	1	3			40	4	1891	1 00	97				
Romp's Valley										74	3	1839	75	50				
Spring Hill	C. R. Miller	Blocton	D. W. Morse	Blocton	7					26	1	1887	1 00	50				
Third Blocton	G. W. Freeman	Troy	W. H. Hand	Blocton	1 2	1	12	4	3	72	3		1 00	50	1 23			
Valley Creek	J. S. Mayfield	Adger	W. L. Caston	Bessemer	7 8	4	1	5	1	54	4	1891	1 10	1 00	25			
					42 95	12	28	23	16	973			\$12 65	\$6 97	\$13 07	\$11 95		